

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: G-77 DECISION ON A RESUMED SESSION

1. SUMMARY: THE G-77 HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESUMED 31ST UNGA IN 1977. THE MODALITIES BOTH FOR TAKING SUCH A DECISION AND FOR THE SESSION ITSELF ARE STILL TO BE WORKED OUT. OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. IS RESTRICTING ANY SUCH A SESSION TO AGENDA ITEM 66 ON ECONOMIC ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY RELIABLE SOURCES IN THE G-77 THAT AT A MEETING ON DECEMBER 16 THE G-77 DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THEY WOULD KEEP OPEN AGENDA ITEM 66 (DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION) IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR A POSSIBLE RESUMED SESSION OF THE 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT YEAR. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION WOULD BE TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CIEC) IN PARIS.

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3. THE G-77 DID NOT DECIDE ON PRECISE MECHANICS FOR CARRYING THIS OUT. THE G-77 CHAIRMAN (AMBASSADOR AKHUND OF PAKISTAN) WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT. OUR SOURCES DOUBT THAT ANY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SET A PRECISE DATE FOR THE RESUMED SESSION PRIOR TO THE CLOSING

OF THIS SESSION (DECEMBER 21).

4. REPORTEDLY, THE G-77 ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING A RESUMED SESSION. A MAJOR QUESTION IS WHEN CIEC WILL BE RESCHEDULED. IN ADDITION, GIVEN THE SCHEDULE OF UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS IN 1977, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, THERE IS A QUESTION OF THE PHYSICAL POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A RESUMED SESSION.

5. COMMENT: THE INTENT OF THE G-77 IS CLEARLY TO PUT PRESSURE ON WESTERN DELEGATIONS AT THE CIEC MEETINGS. WE SEE NO WAY OF THWARTING THIS G-77 INITIATIVE. WE DO BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, TO LIMIT ANY POSSIBLE RESUMED SESSION TO CONSIDERATION OF ONLY AGENDA ITEM 66 AND HAVE DISCREETLY APPROACHED RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS TO THAT END. END COMMENT.

6. AMB BENNETT HAS TALKED WITH UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL BUFFUM ABOUT THIS PROBLEM. BUFFUM WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF ANY DRAFTING FOR GA PRESIDENT'S USE AND WOULD PLAN TO WORK OUT FORMULA SIMILAR TO THAT OF 1973 GA, WHICH ALLOWED POSSIBILITY OF RESUMED SESSION ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTION.
BENNETT

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